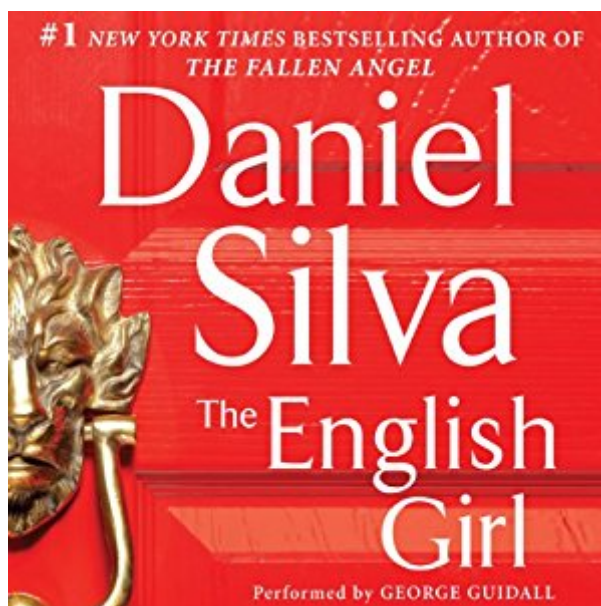


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# The English Girl: Gabriel Allon, Book 13



## Synopsis

Daniel Silva delivers another spectacular thriller starring Gabriel Allon, *The English Girl*. When a beautiful young British woman vanishes on the island of Corsica, a prime minister's career is threatened with destruction. Allon, the wayward son of Israeli intelligence, is thrust into a game of shadows where nothing is what it seems...and where the only thing more dangerous than his enemies might be the truth.... Silva's work has captured the imagination of millions worldwide; his number-one New York Times best-selling series, which chronicles the adventures of art-restorer and master spy Gabriel Allon, has earned the praise of listeners and reviewers everywhere. This captivating new pause-resister from the undisputed master of spy fiction is sure to thrill new and old fans alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read all of Daniel Silva's books and feel this is one of his best yet. It is outstanding on many levels: at the end of the book, the reader walks away not only satisfied with the totally unexpected ending, but better educated as well. Silva skillfully weaves in pertinent politics, history, art, and even a touch of humor. But that is not all. As a writer myself, I also look for the literary style of the author and Daniel is someone to envy. He is a writer who understands the potential beauty of the English language and he demonstrates this as he plays with the verbs and nouns creating imagery of such power that one is tempted to reread the sentences and marvel at his craft. Silva's books are to be read not only for "what happens next" but to admire his incredible talent in maintaining tension in the

story with the skill of his imaginative writing. And that is rare. Here are a few examples from English Girl: "The anonymous lump of wool and fur walking two steps behind him was Eli Lavon...The lump escorted him silently...then floated into the glare of the Moscow morning sun and was gone." And this: "...trapped in the prison of memory." And this: "...time seemed to stumble to a stop." And this: "...The body would turn up. The sea would spit it out..." and this: "...extended his granite hand..." And this: "...moon was ducking in and out of the clouds..." I could fill several pages with quotes, but suffice it to say that those who have yet to read English Girl, are in for a real treat. Alla Crone

I have been an avid reader of Daniel Silva's novels since stumbling upon "The Unlikely Spy" last century! But the Gabriel Allon series, beginning with "The Kill Artist" has had me as a fervent admirer ever since. I couldn't wait for "The English Girl" to be published, but as a Kindle owner it was several weeks after the hard copy release that the novel appeared on my device. I was cranky that the digital cost exceeded that of the hard copy, and was prepared to lambast the author if the narrative did not live up to the higher price. Silva has successfully evaded my tongue lashing! "The English Girl" exceeded my expectations! Silva's wonderful economy of words introduces new readers, and reminds old friends, of the history, background and motivation of previous escapades into the dark universe of espionage. The pace, while not breathtaking, is beautifully paced, well constructed and re-introduces characters from the past. Silva has the talent for bringing the reader into the book. Of being a fly on the wall, as it were, part of the conversation and involved in the action. Episodes are logically and convincingly linked, like a tapestry, each thread has a story, characters are filled out, but not to the extent of hindering the narrative, just enough to engage the reader and question their motives. No spoilers as I would be doing a disservice to the multitudes of discerning readers who will pick up The English Girl and never let her go until the end.

This novel grew on me. The main person was Gabriel - an artist who was also smart and an ex-super spy, married to a woman who was also smart and talented. The couple lived in London and were good together. Soon after the story began, though, Gabriel became re-involved as a spy in an underworld almost against his better judgement when he heard that the prime minister's secret mistress, Madeline Hart, was missing. Action heats up quickly in this book. Gabriel recruited a fellow spy Nicholas who had worked against him in years past. Later the two of them recruited other spies who they knew would be useful to bring down and/or infiltrate the Russians. For their plan, some of them even changed part of their names, although that made it more difficult for me, at least, to follow who was who. The writing was dry at times, yet also showed humor. Here is a piece of

dialogue between a spy and someone from the other side during their work: "A Russian henchman met him (Mikhail) at breakfast to take him to the meet and suggested: 'Our office is very close. I hope you don't mind walking.' "Will we survive?' 'The chances are good, but there are no guarantees in Moscow this time of year.' With that, the factotum turned and led Mikhail into Tverskaya Street." (Mikhail was a pseudonym for a man named Nicholas, Gabriel's good friend.) A minor difficulty I had with this book was that there were too many too many names and descriptions of all the people involved in this story for me to visualize and keep track of. That being said, other readers might not have that difficulty, nor did it detract from the storyline. I got the gist of what was going on and enjoyed this book. I also really liked the fact that action took place in other countries, such as France and Russia, so we readers could imagine being there, hearing the languages.

I disagree with some of the other reviewers who say that Silva's latest, *The English Girl*, does not match the previous Gabriel Allon installments. In fact, I believe this is his best book since *Moscow Rules*. Perhaps that is because the "new Russia" provides for such interesting villains. Some people complain that Silva's books are formulaic, but the formula is part of the appeal. He has created wonderful characters who you want to appear in the books. So you know Allon is going to get his team together, but that's great. You're looking forward to it. You know Eli Lavon is going to have Gabriel's back, making sure he doesn't have a tail. But that's great. You know Shamron is going to insert himself in an intrusive way, but that's great - you expect it from the curmudgeonly Sharmon. Despite the "formula", the book is still suspenseful. At no point in the novel did I feel like I knew what was going to come next.

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